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REPORT

CD NO.

50X1-HUM

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COUNTRY German Democratic Republic; USSR

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Economic - Radio industry

DATE DIST. 20 Apr 1951

50X1-HUM

NO. OF PAGES 2

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THE DABENDORF RADIO PLANT

The people-owned Dabendorf RFT (Radio and Telecommunications) Plant in Dabendorf near Zossen is the only producer of radio transmitters in East Germany.

C. Lorenz, Inc, which was evacuated in 1944, was the basis for this plant. The plant is being rapidly enlarged, and in December 1949 it had about 300 employees.

It is intended to make this formerly rather unimportant plant a key plant for the construction of radio transmitters. This, however, will require substantial increases in materials and personnel, as well as a rather long time to get into full production. Merging the plant organizationally (but not locationally) with the former Gema/Koepenick firm is currently under consideration. Transfer of the plant to the site of the former Bucker Aircraft Factory is also being discussed, because the location of the latter, at Rangsdorf near Berlin, is much more favorable in regard to transportation facilities.

The Main Department for Science and Technology of the Ministry for Planning is very much interested in this plant, even though the millions mentioned for its development seem greatly exaggerated. The main efforts of the state-planned development are still concentrated on enlarging basic industries which could supply the necessary raw materials for the many existing plants in the processing industry. Only in relatively few instances are exceptions made. One of them, however, may very well be construction of radio transmitters, as well as other types of products made by the radio industry.

Production Program

At present, work is under way to fill an order for 100 radiotelephone transmitters with 20-watt antenna output to be used on fishing vessels. Both the ships and the transmitters are to be sent to the USSR as reparation deliveries.

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The former KDF (Strength Through Joy) steamer Der Deutsche, recently salvaged from the Baltic Sea and reconditioned, obtained its radiotelegraph installations from the Dabendorf Radio Plant. This steamer is now being used as a troop transport by Soviet troops.

Furthermore, five 3-stage, 100-watt transmitters had been ordered by a Soviet Signal Corps unit and have already been delivered.

Negotiations are now being carried on about the construction of a 100-kilo-watt transmitter. However, it is very doubtful whether the firm is in a position to fill an order of this type.

All the tubes for the transmitters are being supplied by the Erfurt Radio Tube Plant. Complaints are still heard as to the quality of these tubes.

In addition to transmitters, the Dabendorf plant also produces synchronized electric clocks for railroad, government offices, post office, large plants, etc. Facilities for production of synchronized clocks are the same used by the former Lorenz firm. Work is also being carried out on the development of a high-frequency, spot-welding machine for welding parts made of Igelit [a type of plastic].

The machinery and the laboratory and other equipment of the plant are generally in poor condition. Large-scale additions to the equipment as well as more technicians are expected to be added to the plant as soon as the questions of location and merger (with Gema or a similar firm) have been decided.

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